9043

Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 844 I

DATED 21st October 1896

[Despatch Abstract.]

Periyar Project: Pro: Revenue Dept. Courts: to the Board of Revenue with remarks P. W. Pro: passing orders on certain questions connected with the distribution of the water of the —, Comtd. to S.E. VI Circle.

INDEXED 23/10

T.C. 21/10

P.W. 25. 1,000—13-10-96.

BACK PAPERS.

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Public Works (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 9043

B/

Order No. 844. I. d/ 21" october 1896.

Communicated to the Supdg Engineer, VI circle for information.

MH

To the Chief Engineer for Irrign:
The Supdg Engr: VI Circle

Issue

MH

From the Revenue Depart

No. 3962 Mis

Dated 3rd October '96

Received 8.10.96

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Commg. to the Board of Rev. with remarks Pros., P. W. Dept., passing orders on certain questions connected with the distribution of the water of the Periyar Project.

BR
9-10-96

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

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READ Proceedings of the Public Works Department, No 698 I., dated 17th August 1896.

ORDER thereon, No. 3962 Mis., d/ 3rd Octr. 1896.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, Revenue Sett., Land Records and Agriculture.

2. The Government considers that the responsibility of distributing the Periyar water should vest in the officers of the Public Works Department, but they should at the same time be required to consult the local Revenue Officers freely and to give effect to their suggestions unless there are grave reasons to the contrary.

(True Extract)

For Ag. Secretary to Govt.

To the Board of Revenue, Rev. Sett. &c.

Copy to the P. W. Department.

IRRIGATION.

Government {1896} of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Recd. } 1896. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 698 I., 17th August 1896.

AUGUST.

Periyar Project

Passing orders on certain questions connected with the distribution of the water of the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Irrigation.

READ—the following papers:—

G.O. No. 329 I., dated 6th April 1896.

From W. HUGHES, Esq., Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Trichinopoly, 7th July 1896, No. 760 M.D.

With reference to your No. VI/24 P.R., dated 25th ultimo, asking me to report on sections (2), (4) and (9) of paragraph 18 of the Revenue Board Commissioner's recommendations communicated with G.O. No. 329 I. of 6th April 1896, I have the honour to submit the following information.

2. There were about 20 miles of distributaries marked out at end of last month and the laying out and estimating are being continued as rapidly as possible. One estimate has just been submitted to you and others will follow soon. The estimates will provide for all distributaries required for blocks of 50 acres and upwards, and the points to which it is considered each should be maintained by Government will be indicated. Excavation has not yet been begun as no land has been made over. The Deputy Collector informed me a fortnight ago that some land schedules had been submitted to the Board of Revenue for approval.

3. A list of tanks in the Madura taluk with proposals for abandoning or retaining them has been prepared and will be submitted as soon as the tracing of the map is completed.

4. The Revenue Board Commissioner's anticipation that the ryots would not attempt to prepare their lands for conversion into wet until the distributaries were cut appears to be quite correct. There has been a very general disbelief in the project, unfortunately strengthened by our inability to give the promised supply in March last, but there are signs that this feeling is rapidly giving way. I do not however anticipate any appreciable extension of irrigation this season unless it be under tanks. We could supply numbers of inam tanks, but the inamdars seem unwilling to take the water. I have heard of only one application so far and that was accompanied by the condition, which it is impossible to accept, that the supply should be guaranteed for a number of years.

5. The lake remained at the same low level, 2 feet above highest part of watershed cutting, from 20th February to about the middle of last month. Many tanks are now filled as far as necessary to command their highest lands and cultivation has begun. I fear the crop will be very late as there was no water to raise seedlings and this will make the second crop late, but it matters little while the demand is so limited that the supply from the reservoir can be continued until March. In future it will be advisable and should be possible for a good many years unless when then the north-east monsoon fails, to reserve a certain quantity of water in the lake to guarantee a small supply from the middle of May.

6. I regret being obliged to report that we have had to stop the supply to Branch No. 9 below the Chittampatty offtake. From about $2\frac{3}{4}$ to $4\frac{7}{8}$ miles the channel is nearly all in high embankment, the bed being 2 to 7 feet above ground. The bank is in places formed of soil which, though perhaps the best obtainable, is not good

enough for such work and has shown so much weakness that I think the channel will have to be dropped to a lower level before it can be used below the 4th mile. Proposals in regard to this will be submitted to you shortly. Arrangements will be made to strengthen the banks in the 3rd mile and to make a temporary channel to take water to the Kunatur offtake. The Vundyur tank which is the other principal tank under the 9th branch will be supplied by the 4th branch. The 10th branch channel is carrying a fair supply.

7. With regard to section (9) of the Commissioner's recommendations, there are evident and insuperable objections to his proposals. There is first the general objection on the score of divided control and responsibility, and there is the still stronger objection that no one can regulate the distribution over an irrigation system of such complexity, who is not fully acquainted with the channels, their condition and capacity and who has not also the control of the head works. It will be the business of the Irrigation Superintendents to keep the Sub-division officer acquainted with the demand for water in different localities and to meet that demand as far as the powers conferred on them and the supply of water available permit. If it is a question of supplying new land the demand is never so urgent that the day or two lost in communicating with the Sub-division officer can be of importance, and if any Revenue officer thinks any particular tract is not receiving all the water that it should the Sub-division officer would, as a matter of course, at once pay attention to any representation made to him.

8. I cannot enter into the question of the capabilities of the reservoir in the event of a failure of the north-east monsoon. If the discharge measurements of the Periyár for the last eight years can be found in your office and can be guaranteed fairly reliable an estimate may be made of the water-supply to be expected during any period of the year. Otherwise no forecast is possible and we must await experience. There is no relation whatever between the rainfall at Periyár or Thekaday and the supply received in the lake, so that measurements of the water are absolutely the only guide.

No. 149 I.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation concurs in the opinion of the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, in considering that the responsibility of distributing the water of the Periyár project to the best advantage should rest with the Public Works Department.

2. As regards the capabilities of the Periyár reservoir in the event of a failure of the north-east monsoon rains, no discharge measurements of previous years can be traced and the experience of a year or two must be awaited before any reliable opinion on this point can be pronounced.

(Signed) R. R. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN, Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

23rd July 1896.

Order—No. 698 I., dated 17th August 1896.

The question as to what tanks under the Periyár project are to be abandoned referred to in recommendation No. 1 of paragraph 18 of Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 29 of 22nd February 1896, communicated with G.O. No. 329 I. of 6th April 1896, will be considered on receipt of the list referred to in paragraph 3 of the Superintending Engineer's letter.

2. The Commissioner's recommendation No. 2 that Government should undertake the construction of all distributaries intended to irrigate fifty acres and upwards is approved.

3. The Superintending Engineer's remarks regarding the Commissioner's recommendations Nos. 3 and 4 and the remarks by the Superintending Engineer, and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation regarding the recommendation No. 9 and the enquiry No. 10 will be communicated to the Revenue Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. R. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. J. P. Oliver.